

There is room to do the prudent thing here. Let us work together and get it done in a fiscally responsible manner.

#### TAX CUTS WILL BRING BENEFITS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH TO ALL AMERICANS

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, last week all of us will remember the President took a well-publicized poverty tour. More than 6.5 years into his administration, the President wanted to call attention to poverty, and I understand that. Although we are now in the eighth year of economic growth, the benefits of our strong economy have eluded too many Americans.

Instead of setting up a public relations event, however, I urge the President to take solid steps to expand the scope of our economic well-being and develop constructive legislation with Republicans.

□ 1030

One of the ideas we have as Republicans is to reduce taxes. Putting more money back into the pockets of taxpayers will spur investments and spending and generate, of course, more economic activity and ultimately help the poor.

Our plan to reduce taxes, at the same time protecting Social Security and preserving Medicare, is the best means I believe for bringing the benefits of economic growth to all Americans. After all, it is their money, our money, and we can spend it better for ourselves than the Government can.

#### DEATH OF CIVIL RIGHTS PIONEER JAMES L. FARMER

(Mr. CLYBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus to join the chorus of millions around the Nation and the world to express our heartfelt sorrow over the passing of civil rights pioneer James L. Farmer.

James Farmer was founder of the Congress of Racial Equality. He organized the famous Freedom Ride of the 1960s to challenge the Jim Crow laws of racial segregation in public transportation.

During his lifetime, Farmer was the recipient of numerous awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1998.

On a personal level, I experienced firsthand his inspiring leadership while a student of the South Carolina State University. As a member of CORE, I participated in the lunch counter sit-ins and other direct action activities organized by Mr. Farmer. These activi-

ties were the driving current for the student movement.

We in the CBC and others will honor his memory by always striving to emulate his shining example. I extend our deepest condolences and our thoughts and prayers to his two daughters, Tami Lynn and Abbey Lee, and the entire Farmer family.

#### REPUBLICANS WANT TO HELP BOTTOM 50 MOVE INTO TOP 50

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, the top 50 percent of income earners pay 96 percent of the Federal income taxes. The bottom 50 percent are carrying only 4 percent of the load.

My colleagues heard that right. The bottom 50 percent are paying almost no Federal income taxes at all, just 4 percent of the load.

Guess who President Clinton and the Democrats want to give a tax cut to? My colleagues guessed it: the 50 percent of taxpayers who are paying almost no taxes already.

"Aha," my liberal colleagues will say, "just as I have always suspected. The only people you Republicans care about are the top 50 percent."

Now, I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to listen closely. That kind of thinking perfectly misunderstands what Republicans are about. Republicans want to help the bottom 50 percent move into the top 50 percent.

In fact, most people do just that over the course of their lifetimes. They start out young and have entry-level jobs and incomes, and then they move up in education, experience, and in income.

Democrat rhetoric constantly, constantly seems to imply there are fixed categories, haves and have-nots. This is just not true.

#### PRESIDENT TAKES CREDIT FOR WHAT REPUBLICANS HAVE ACHIEVED

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, Republicans have had to get used to hearing the President take credit for what Republicans have achieved many times despite what the President himself desired.

Take welfare reform, for example. Republicans forced the President to sign welfare reform in 1996, something that he had refused to pass when the Democrats controlled both Houses of Congress. He signed welfare reform only after vetoing it twice and only then in an election year, with promises to undo it as soon as he got the chance. And then he took credit for it.

Now, the President is taking credit for the first budget surplus since the

Mets won the pennant back in 1996 despite the fact that it was the Republicans who forced him to scrap his initial budget plans, which had huge deficits as far as the eye could see.

Ronald Reagan once said that you can accomplish a great deal if you do not worry about who takes credit for it.

So let us save Social Security, save Medicare, pay down the national debt, and give the American people substantial tax relief even if the President takes credit for it.

#### GAO REPORTS CONCERNING OPERATION OF LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION ARE VERY TROUBLING

(Mr. MILLER of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on the recent GAO report on the Legal Services Corporation.

It turned out that audits conducted by the Legal Services Corporation's Inspector General during 1998 revealed gross overstatement of cases in all five of the grantees examined and 200,000 cases were invalidated from audits on those five grantees alone.

A subsequent GAO study on five more grantees was requested by several Members of Congress to determine the scope of this problem, and the results showed even more reason for concern.

Besides invalidating at least 75,000 more cases, the GAO discovered that two of the five grantees, Puerto Rico and Chicago, had destroyed their client case files. In fact, the destruction of these files in Puerto Rico interfered with the ability of the GAO to conduct their audit. In Illinois, the destruction of the case files is against legal requirements set by the Illinois Supreme Court.

The Legal Services Corporation itself claims to require their grantees to maintain their case files for at least 5 years, and that requirement is apparently violated.

These reports are indeed very troubling concerning the operation of the Legal Services Corporation.

#### NOMINATION OF RICHARD HOLBROOKE AS AMBASSADOR TO UNITED NATIONS IS BEING BLOCKED

(Mr. SCHAFFER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, the nomination of Richard Holbrooke to be ambassador of the United Nations is being blocked across the Capital because of this administration's failure to answer questions about the Linda Shenwick case.

Linda Shenwick is a loyal State Department employee who has offended the White House.

Her crime? She told the truth. She told the uncomfortable truth to the United States Congress, as she is required to do by law; and then she was punished for it. She told the truth about what the U.N.'s appalling budget practices are and about massive waste in the United Nations.

For that she has been declared "enemy number one" by high officials at the White House, all because she is a whistle-blower.

Whistle-blowers were hailed in the press under Republican administrations, but the outrageous indefensible retaliation against this whistle-blower under this administration has been almost ignored by the press and, of course, by the President's party, a party that used to join Republicans in defending the little guy, the innocent people who suffer at the hand of those who abuse power and exploit workers.

It is an outrage, Mr. Speaker.

#### REPUBLICANS HAVE THE BEST AGENDA

(Mr. COOKSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, what is the Republican agenda? The Republican agenda is the BEST agenda for all Americans.

"B" is for bolstering the national security. "E" is for education excellence. "S" is for strengthening retirement security. And "T" is for tax relief for working Americans.

Americans, Republicans do have the best agenda. It is a positive, forward-looking agenda that recognizes that our military needs to be given a higher priority in a dangerous world, that our schools need to be improved if our children are going to enjoy a bright future, that seniors need to be protected against the looming Social Security and Medicare crises, and that Americans who pay the taxes should be given tax relief, not more rhetoric about why Washington needs the money.

Bolstering national security. Education excellence. Strengthening retirement security. Tax relief for working Americans. Republicans have the BEST agenda.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and that I may include tabular and extraneous material on the further consideration of H.R. 2466, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). Pursuant to House Resolution 243 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2466.

□ 1039

#### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2466) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, with Mr. LATOURETTE in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, July 13, 1999, the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) had been disposed of and the bill was open for amendment from page 19, line 10, through page 21, line 6.

Are there further amendments to this portion of the bill?

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read, as follows:

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Appropriations for the National Park Service shall be available for the purchase of not to exceed 384 passenger motor vehicles, of which 298 shall be for replacement only, including not to exceed 312 for police-type use, 12 buses, and 6 ambulances: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated to the National Park Service may be used to process any grant or contract documents which do not include the text of 18 U.S.C. 1913: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated to the National Park Service may be used to implement an agreement for the redevelopment of the southern end of Ellis Island until such agreement has been submitted to the Congress and shall not be implemented prior to the expiration of 30 calendar days (not including any day in which either House of Congress is not in session because of adjournment of more than three calendar days to a day certain) from the receipt by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of a full and comprehensive report on the development of the southern end of Ellis Island, including the facts and circumstances relied upon in support of the proposed project.

None of the funds in this Act may be spent by the National Park Service for activities taken in direct response to the United Nations Biodiversity Convention.

The National Park Service may distribute to operating units based on the safety record of each unit the costs of programs designed to improve workplace and employee safety, and to encourage employees receiving workers' compensation benefits pursuant to chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to return to appropriate positions for which they are medically able.

#### UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY SURVEYS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND RESEARCH

For expenses necessary for the United States Geological Survey to perform surveys, investigations, and research covering topography, geology, hydrology, biology, and the mineral and water resources of the

United States, its territories and possessions, and other areas as authorized by 43 U.S.C. 31, 1332, and 1340; classify lands as to their mineral and water resources; give engineering supervision to power permittees and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensees; administer the minerals exploration program (30 U.S.C. 641); and publish and disseminate data relative to the foregoing activities; and to conduct inquiries into the economic conditions affecting mining and materials processing industries (30 U.S.C. 3, 21a, and 1603; 50 U.S.C. 98g(1)) and related purposes as authorized by law and to publish and disseminate data; \$820,444,000, of which \$60,856,000 shall be available only for cooperation with States or municipalities for water resources investigations; and of which \$16,400,000 shall remain available until expended for conducting inquiries into the economic conditions affecting mining and materials processing industries; and of which \$137,674,000 shall be available until September 30, 2001 for the biological research activity and the operation of the Cooperative Research Units: *Provided*, That none of these funds provided for the biological research activity shall be used to conduct new surveys on private property, unless specifically authorized in writing by the property owner: *Provided further*, That no part of this appropriation shall be used to pay more than one-half the cost of topographic mapping or water resources data collection and investigations carried on in cooperation with States and municipalities.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The amount appropriated for the United States Geological Survey shall be available for the purchase of not to exceed 53 passenger motor vehicles, of which 48 are for replacement only; reimbursement to the General Services Administration for security guard services; contracting for the furnishing of topographic maps and for the making of geophysical or other specialized surveys when it is administratively determined that such procedures are in the public interest; construction and maintenance of necessary buildings and appurtenant facilities; acquisition of lands for gauging stations and observation wells; expenses of the United States National Committee on Geology; and payment of compensation and expenses of persons on the rolls of the Survey duly appointed to represent the United States in the negotiation and administration of interstate compacts: *Provided*, That activities funded by appropriations herein made may be accomplished through the use of contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements as defined in 31 U.S.C. 6302 et seq.: *Provided further*, That the United States Geological Survey may hereafter contract directly with individuals or indirectly with institutions or nonprofit organizations, without regard to 41 U.S.C. 5, for the temporary or intermittent services of students or recent graduates, who shall be considered employees for the purposes of chapters 57 and 81 of title 5, United States Code, relating to compensation for travel and work injuries, and chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, relating to tort claims, but shall not be considered to be Federal employees for any other purposes.

#### MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE ROYALTY AND OFFSHORE MINERALS MANAGEMENT

For expenses necessary for minerals leasing and environmental studies, regulation of industry operations, and collection of royalties, as authorized by law; for enforcing laws and regulations applicable to oil, gas, and other minerals leases, permits, licenses and operating contracts; and for matching grants or cooperative agreements; including the